THE BEST OF BRITISH COMICS – IT'S

TERRIFIC

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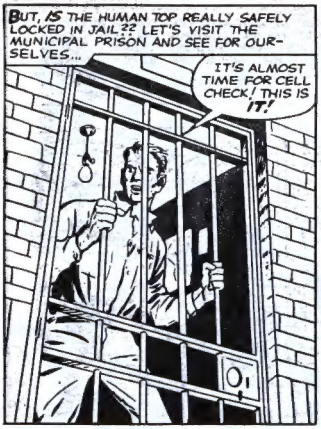
REMEMBER HOW IT SEEMED AS THOUGH THE HUMAN TOP WOULD NEVER BE CAUGHT??
DO I? I STILL HAVE NIGHTMARES ABOUT THAT GUY!

I DON'T THINK ANY FOE EVER MADE ME LOOK AS CLUMSY--OR FEEL AS FOOLISH AS HE DID! OF COURSE, I HADN'T HAD MY GIANT POWERS VERY LONG, AND STILL WASN'T TOO USED TO THEM!
GIANT MAN

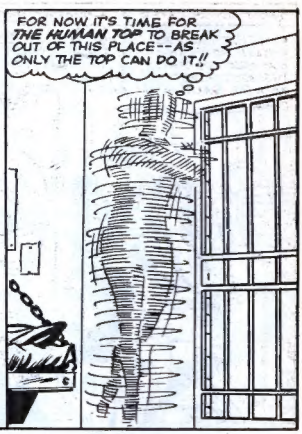
I'LL BET IF YOU HAD TO CATCH HIM NOW, IT WOULD BE LOTS EASIER FOR YOU, GIANT-MAN!
I APPRECIATE YOUR CONFIDENCE, LITTLE FRIEND--AND I WISH I SHARED IT!
Giant Man

ACTUALLY, I NEVER DID MANAGE TO MATCH HIS SPEED! I ONLY SUCCEEDED IN DEFEATING HIM BY A TRICK!
THIS ENDS THE FILM! GEE, WASN'T HE HANDSOME--FOR A CRIMINAL, THAT IS!

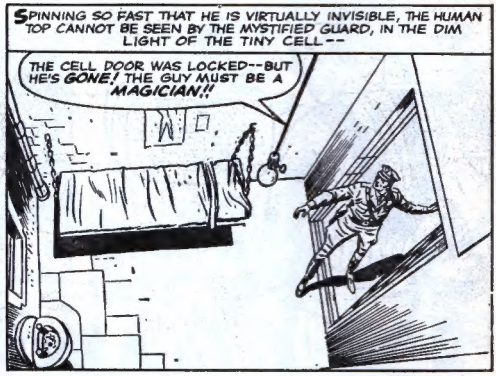
DON'T LET HIS LOOKS FOOL YOU, YOUNG LADY! BEHIND THOSE MOVIE STAR FEATURES IS A DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE MENACE!! IT'S LUCKY FOR ALL OF US THAT HE'S SAFELY IN JAIL!
IMAGINE IF HE EVER ESCAPED! IT'S A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT!


BUT, IS THE HUMAN TOP REALLY SAFELY LOCKED IN JAIL?? LET'S VISIT THE MUNICIPAL PRISON AND SEE FOR OURSELVES...
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CELL CHECK! THIS IS IT!

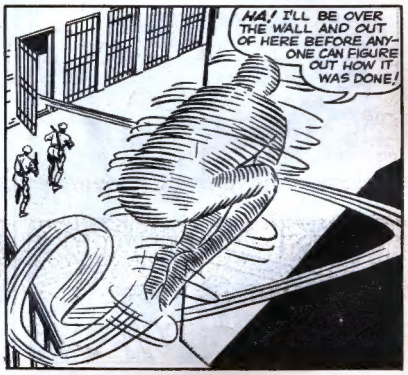
THEY KEPT A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR GUARD AT MY CELL FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, BUT THEN, WHEN THEY SAW I WAS A MODEL PRISONER, THEY DISMISSED HIM! THAT WAS THEIR FIRST MISTAKE!

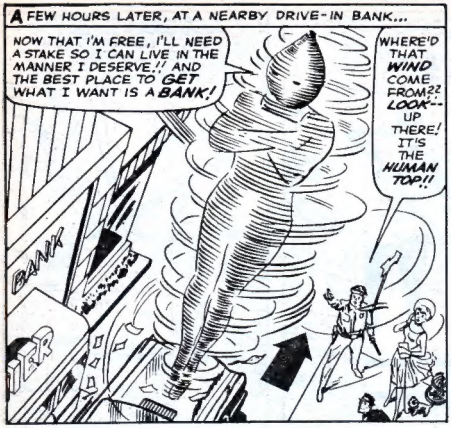

FOR NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE HUMAN TOP TO BREAK OUT OF THIS PLACE--AS ONLY THE TOP CAN DO IT!!

THAT'S STRANGE! THE HUMAN TOP'S CELL LOOKS EMPTY! BUT--HOW CAN THAT BE??

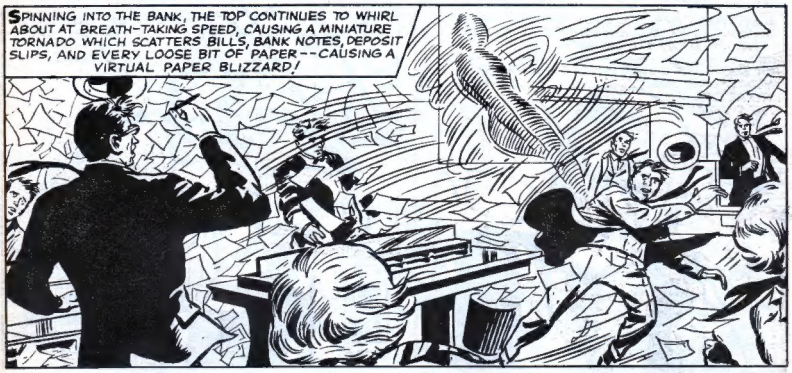

SPINNING SO FAST THAT HE IS VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE, THE HUMAN TOP CANNOT BE SEEN BY THE MYSTIFIED GUARD, IN THE DIM LIGHT OF THE TINY CELL--
THE CELL DOOR WAS LOCKED--BUT HE'S GONE! THE GUY MUST BE A MAGICIAN!!

THINKING THE TOP HAS ESCAPED, THE GUARD RACES FROM THE CELL, LEAVING THE IRON DOOR OPEN BEHIND HIM!
NOT A MINUTE TO LOSE! I'VE GOT TO GIVE THE ALARM!!


HA! I'LL BE OVER THE WALL AND OUT OF HERE BEFORE ANYONE CAN FIGURE OUT HOW IT WAS DONE!


A FEW HOURS LATER, AT A NEARBY DRIVE-IN BANK...
NOW THAT I'M FREE, I'LL NEED A STAKE SO I CAN LIVE IN THE MANNER I DESERVE.!! AND THE BEST PLACE TO GET WHAT I WANT IS A BANK!
WHERE'D THAT WIND COME FROM?? LOOK-- UP THERE! IT'S THE HUMAN TOP!!
BANK

I HEARD HE COULD SPIN SO FAST THAT HE ACTUALLY COULD RISE IN INTO THE AIR, DEFYING GRAVITY! BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE IT! WH-WHERE'D HE GO??

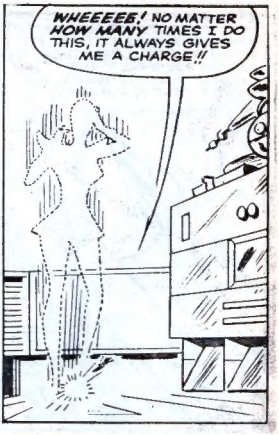

SPINNING INTO THE BANK, THE TOP CONTINUES TO WHIRL ABOUT AT BREATH-TAKING SPEED, CAUSING A MINIATURE TORNADO WHICH SCATTERS BILLS, BANK NOTES, DEPOSIT SLIPS, AND EVERY LOOSE BIT OF PAPER--CAUSING A VIRTUAL PAPER BLIZZARD!

WHILE BACK AT GIANT-MAN'S LAB, AFTER THE YOUNG FANS HAVE LEFT...
PUT ON THE TV, BLUE EYES! THERE ARE SOME GOOD TEAR-JERKERS AT THIS HOUR!
YOU CAN HAVE THEM, JAN! I JUST WANT TO CATCH THE MID-AFTERNOON NEWS FIRST!

HENRY-- LOOK!! IS--IS IT A GAG?? IT CAN'T BE TRUE!!
I'M AFRAID IT IS, JAN! IT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DREADING FOR MONTHS! HE'S ESCAPED!!

IT'S LUCKY THERE WAS A MOBILE TV NEWS UNIT IN THE AREA, OR WE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ALERTED IN TIME! LET'S GO, GAL--EVERY SECOND COUNTS!!

I'LL TAKE A SHRINKING CAPSULE, HANK, SO THAT I CAN FLY TO THE BANK AS THE WASP! IT'LL BE THE FASTEST WAY FOR ME!


WHEEEEE! NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO THIS, IT ALWAYS GIVES ME A CHARGE!!

SAY! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? AREN'T YOU GOING TO BECOME ANT-SIZED, AND CALL ONE OF YOUR FLYING ANTS FOR A LIFT?
NOT THIS TIME, JAN! I'VE GOT ANOTHER METHOD OF GOING INTO ACTION THAT I WANT TO TRY!

I'LL TURN INTO GIANT-MAN INSTEAD--LIKE THIS!!

WAIT! STOP! YOU--YOU'LL KILL YOURSELF, HANK!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??
RELAX, LITTLE PARTNER! I'M JUST TAKING THE FAST WAY DOWN!

I HAD THIS SPECIAL RIG INSTALLED AT THE SIDE OF OUR BUILDING WEEKS AGO! FROM THE STREET IT LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY FLAGPOLE!

--BUT IT'S REALLY A POWERFUL TENSION-CABLE DEVICE WITH JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF RESILIENCY TO LOWER ME TO THE GROUND!

HOLY SMOKE!! FIRST SNOW-- THEN SLEET-- NOW IT'S RAININ' GIANTS!!!
BUS

HEY, MISTER! SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE, HUH? I GOT A SCHEDULE TO MAKE!!
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME, LITTLE LADY! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER GET HERE!
BUS STOP
EXPRE

HENRY PYM!! DON'T YOU EVER GIVE ME A SCARE LIKE THAT AGAIN, HEAR?? YOU--YOU BIG SHOW-OFF, YOU!!

SORRY, JAN! GUESS I SHOULD HAVE EXPLAINED FIRST! WELL, NEVER MIND! WE'VE A JOB TO DO NOW!
MIND TAKING A HITCH-HIKER, BIG BOY?

COVERING THE MANY STREETS WITH HUGE, DISTANCE-SWALLOWING STRIDES, GIANT-MAN SOON REACHES THE DRIVE-IN BANK, WITH HIS LITTLE PASSENGER STILL ATOP HIS SHOULDER, ONLY TO FIND...
I'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THIS CROWD WITHOUT STEPPING ON SOMEONE!!

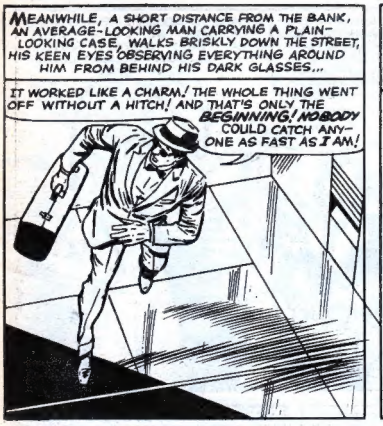
STAND ASIDE, FOLKS!! I'M TRYING TO GET IN THERE! STEP TO ONE SIDE!!
IT'S NO USE, GIANT-MAN! EVERYONE IS SO EXCITED, THEY'RE SCRAMBLING AROUND IN HOPELESS CONFUSION!
AVINGS BANK

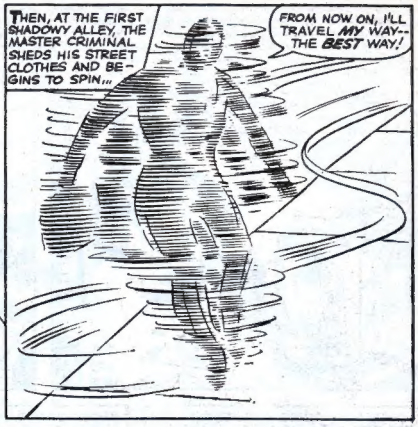
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO TRAMPLE ON ANY INNOCENT PEOPLE, SO THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO!

A SPLIT SECOND LATER, COMPLETELY UNNOTICED BY THE MILLING CROWD, TWO ANT-SIZED FIGURES DASH THROUGH THE SEA OF LEGS INTO THE BANK...
THIS MAY NOT LOOK AS DRAMATIC, BUT IT'LL GET US INSIDE!!

BUT, ONCE INSIDE, THE PAPERS AND DEBRIS WHICH THE HUMAN TOP HAS SCATTERED, FORM AN ALMOST-IMPENETRABLE BARRIER TO THE INSECT-SIZED ADVENTURERS!
WE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THAT WHILE ANT-SIZED! BETTER ATTAIN OUR NORMAL SIZE NOW!
WITHDRAWAL
DEPOSIT

AND SO...
I APPRECIATE YOUR RUSHING HERE, GIANT-MAN AND WASP, BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE TOO LATE! THE TOP HAS GONE -- WITH A SMALL FORTUNE IN BANK NOTES!
WELL, ONE THING IS FOR SURE -- WE'LL NEVER CATCH HIM BY CHASING HIM! GETTING THAT MONEY BACK IS GOING TO TAKE SOME MIGHTY, CAREFUL PLANNING!


MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE FROM THE BANK, AN AVERAGE-LOOKING MAN CARRYING A PLAIN-LOOKING CASE, WALKS BRISKLY DOWN THE STREET, HIS KEEN EYES OBSERVING EVERYTHING AROUND HIM FROM BEHIND HIS DARK GLASSES...
IT WORKED LIKE A CHARM! THE WHOLE THING WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH! AND THAT'S ONLY THE BEGINNING! NOBODY COULD CATCH ANYONE AS FAST AS I AM!

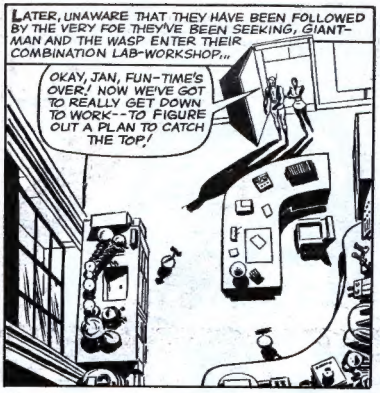

THEN, AT THE FIRST SHADOWY ALLEY, THE MASTER CRIMINAL SHEDS HIS STREET CLOTHES AND BEGINS TO SPIN...
FROM NOW ON, I'LL TRAVEL MY WAY--THE BEST WAY!

WHILE BACK AT THE BANK, GIANT-MAN MAKES A SOLEMN PLEDGE...
I PROMISE YOU THIS--NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES--NO MATTER HOW HOPELESS IT SEEMS--I'LL NEVER REST UNTIL THE TOP IS BEATEN!

AND THEN...
NO NEED FOR HASTE NOW, JAN! I'LL HAIL A CAB!
OH NO! LET'S WALK, HANK! IT'S SUCH A LOVELY DAY--AND I LIKE TO SHOW YOU OFF!

OKAY, HONEY! BUT I FEEL LIKE A GOOF PARADING AROUND THE STREET IN A COSTUME LIKE THIS!
BUT SUCH A HANDSOME GOOF!!--SIGH!
WELL WELL! THIS IS MY LUCKY DAY! LOOK WHO'S THERE!!

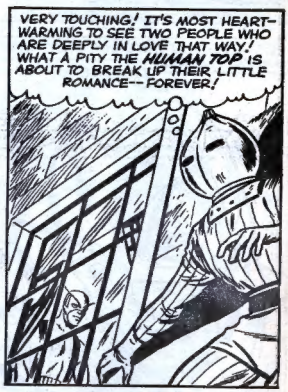
IT'S GIANT-MAN, AND THAT GORGEOUS GIRL-FRIEND OF HIS! HE BEAT ME LAST TIME WE MET--BUT NOW THE STORY WILL END DIFFERENTLY!!


LATER, UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THE VERY FOE THEY'VE BEEN SEEKING, GIANT-MAN AND THE WASP ENTER THEIR COMBINATION LAB-WORKSHOP...
OKAY, JAN, FUN-TIME'S OVER! NOW WE'VE GOT TO REALLY GET DOWN TO WORK--TO FIGURE OUT A PLAN TO CATCH THE TOP!

I'LL LEAVE THE BRAINWORK TO YOU, HONEY! I'M BETTER IN THE MOONLIGHT AND ROSES DEPARTMENT!
I HATE TO SOUND LIKE A STUFFED SHIRT, JAN--BUT I WISH YOU'D START TAKING YOURSELF SERIOUSLY!

YOU'RE EASILY THE BRAINIEST, CLEVEREST GIRL I'VE EVER MET--AS WELL AS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND COURAGEOUS! AND YET, YOU TRY TO SOUND LIKE AN EMPTY-HEADED, FLIGHTY COQUETTE! BUT I KNOW THE REAL YOU, HONEY--AND I LIKE WHAT I KNOW!

HENRY PYM!! THIS IS THE NEAREST THING TO A GENUINE, FOURTEEN-CARAT COMPLIMENT YOU'VE EVER GIVEN ME! IF--IF I WASN'T AFRAID OF RUNNING MY MASCARA, I THINK I'D SIT DOWN AND CRY!


VERY TOUCHING! IT'S MOST HEART-WARMING TO SEE TWO PEOPLE WHO ARE DEEPLY IN LOVE THAT WAY! WHAT A PITY THE HUMAN TOP IS ABOUT TO BREAK UP THEIR LITTLE ROMANCE--FOREVER!

THE FIRST THING TO DO IS CONTACT OUR LEGION OF ANTS THROUGHOUT THE CITY, AND SEE IF ANY OF THEM HAVE SEEN THE TOP!
I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE, YOU COSTUMED CLOWN! JUST TURN AROUND!!

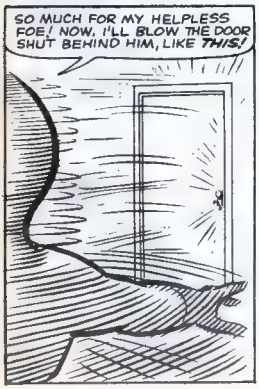
WHA--??? WHO SAID--?? MY CAPSULE BELT!! SOMETHING RIPPED IT OFF!!

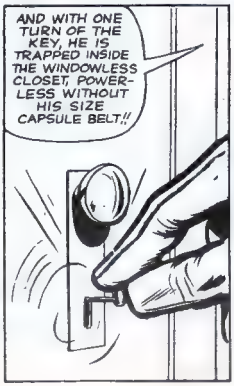
CORRECTION, MISTER! NOT "SOMETHING" --SOMEONE!!
THE HUMAN TOP!!

YOU'RE MIGHTY OBLIGING TO SAVE US THE TROUBLE OF FINDING YOU!
YOU KNOW ME, PAL O' MINE! I'M ALL HEART!
AND NOW I'LL TAKE ONE OF YOUR OWN GROWTH PILLS--!!

HE GREW TO DOUBLE-SIZE!! NOW WHEN HE SPINS AROUND, IT--IT'S LIKE A TORNADO!!

THE WIND IS BLOWING ME INTO THE EMPTY CLOSET-- LIKE A HURRICANE!! CAN'T STOP MYSELF!!


SO MUCH FOR MY HELPLESS FOE! NOW, I'LL BLOW THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND HIM, LIKE THIS!


AND WITH ONE TURN OF THE KEY, HE IS TRAPPED INSIDE THE WINDOWLESS CLOSET, POWERLESS WITHOUT HIS SIZE CAPSULE BELT!!

AND NOW--!
MUSTN'T PANIC! MUST REMEMBER GIANT-MAN'S TRAINING!!
THE TABLES TURN NEXT WEEK!

TERRIFIC NEWS

TERRIFIC
64 LONG ACRE
LONDON W.C.2

Dear Alf and Bart,
You've taken some of my favourite heroes that formed the mightiest fight'n team ever . . . and SPLIT 'EM UP. Namely, The Avengers! An' what's worse, you've replaced 'em with EX-SUPER-VILLIANS! I don't know how I'll ever get to like them! Maybe horrid Quicksilver will just be a (ahem)! "FLASH in the pan!" Well . . . I can't fight POWER! . . . Oh! And if you want a new cartoon strip, what about a cartoon super hero? My best wishes to the goody-union (and worst luck to the baddy-union!) (Gulp!)
David Young,
Melrose,
Roxburghshire,
Scotland.

Relax, Dave, those new Avengers might still be a little raw and young but the battle-swinging weeks ahead will bring out the potential of their TEAM-WORK. It would have been UNREAL if the new guys had settled down right away without a certain amount of immature RIVALRY and back-biting especially when you consider the great pressures weighing on them. Meanwhile they are providing all out *action* and what's more they're *winning* their fights and getting *better*, more co-ordinated, more of a *team* as each crisis is surmounted!
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I have thought up this power quiz for your fans. 1. Who is the odd man out, and why? (a) Dare Devil, (b) Spider-Man and (c) Hulk. 2. In what comic did Rick Jones appear before *Terrific*? 3. Did the Sub Mariner ever fight Iron Man? 4. Who was the power house pin up in *Fantastic* No. 4? 5. What is the famous cowboy story in *Wham*? 6. What relation is Thor to Loki? 7. Name the secret identities of Jean Gray, Matt Murdoch, Tony Stark, Sue Storm, Peter Parker? 8. Name the girl-friends of these super-heroes: Thor, Giant-Man, Sub Mariner, Cyclops? 9. In what comic does Sgt. Fury appear? 10. What is Thor's enchanted hammer made of? 11. What have the Angel and the Wasp got in common? 12. Who caused the death of Captain America's partner, Bucky?

Answers:
1. Spider Man, because he doesn't appear in *Smash*. 2. *Smash* (as partner to Hulk) 3. Yes in *Terrific* 4. Beast 5. Pest of the West 6. Thor and Loki are step-brothers 7. J.G.=Marvel Girl, M.M. Daredevil, T.S. – Iron Man, S.S. = Invisible girl P.P. = Spider Man. 8. Thor's girlfriend is Jane Forster, Giant Man's is Wasp. Sub Mariner's is Lady Dorma (in *Terrific*). Cyclops' is Jean Gray. 9. Pow 10: Uru 11. They both have wings and can fly. 12. Zemo.
I hope you like my quiz.
Philip Hardy,
Wetherby,
Yorkshire.

We do like it, Philip, and we hope that *ALL* you P.O's got a hundred per cent and a star!
Alf and Bart.

Dear Alf and Bart,
I shall tell you what a Power-Maniac is. Well first something very STRANGE and FANTASTIC happens. He becomes X-cited. His eyes bug out, his tongue droops and all other comics become INVISIBLE. His eyes begin to flame like a TORCH and he becomes a DAREDEVIL. He becomes attracted to SPIDERS and WASPS and develops a hatred of rust. Usually he is an ANGEL but if his newsagent has run out of *Power* comics he becomes very Thor. Then he may be a BEAST or a rampaging HULK and fly into a great FURY. Usually though he is a Giant among men, and doffs his CAP to you POWERFUL writers and artists. I like TERRIFIC best though I'm sorry about the bad writing but I have a THOR thumb.
Allan Scattergood,
Liverpool 7.

Thor thumb or not, Allan certainly has his finger on the pulse of Power, F.Cs.! *Caps* off indeed to this *Daredevil* report for only a *man darin'* enough to risk *Smashing* the *top off* his thermometer with the *giant* expansion of *quicksilver* would risk analysing this *grim* complaint!
Alf and Bart.

Don't forget! There is an Avenger T-shirt for each letter printed on this page!

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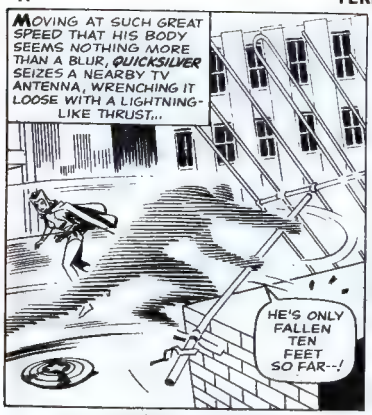
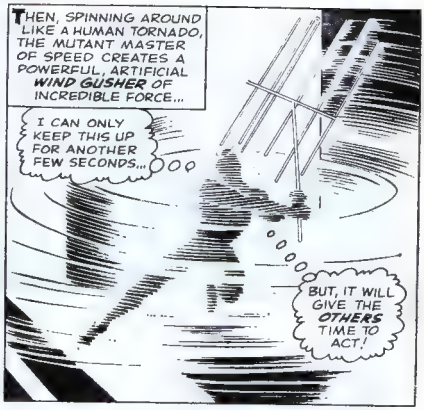
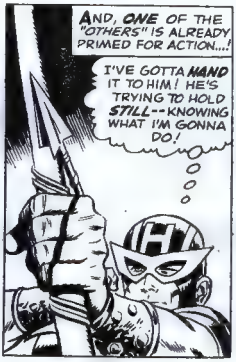

MOVING AT SUCH GREAT SPEED THAT HIS BODY SEEMS NOTHING MORE THAN A BLUR, QUICKSILVER SEIZES A NEARBY TV ANTENNA, WRENCHING IT LOOSE WITH A LIGHTNING-LIKE THRUST...
HE'S ONLY FALLEN TEN FEET SO FAR--!

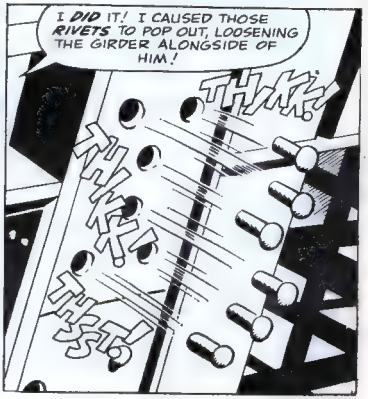

THEN, SPINNING AROUND LIKE A HUMAN TORNADO, THE MUTANT MASTER OF SPEED CREATES A POWERFUL, ARTIFICIAL WIND GUSHER OF INCREDIBLE FORCE...
I CAN ONLY KEEP THIS UP FOR ANOTHER FEW SECONDS...
BUT, IT WILL GIVE THE OTHERS TIME TO ACT!

QUICKSILVER DIDN'T DISAPPOINT ME! THIS VORTEX OF AIR IS SLOWING MY FALL!
NOW, IF THE OTHERS COME THROUGH!


AND, ONE OF THE "OTHERS" IS ALREADY PRIMED FOR ACTION....!
I'VE GOTTA HAND IT TO HIM! HE'S TRYING TO HOLD STILL--KNOWING WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

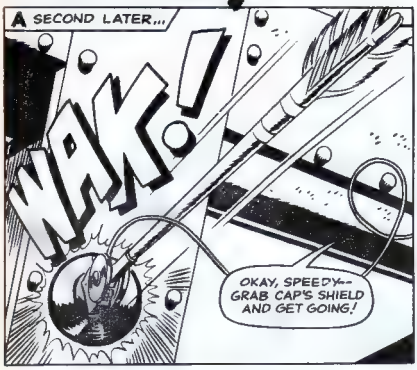
MY HANDS--THEY'RE FREE!
THUT!
HAWKEYE DID IT!

QUICKSILVER IS WEAKENING! ONLY THE SCARLET WITCH'S HEX CAN SAVE CAP NOW!


I DID IT! I CAUSED THOSE RIVETS TO POP OUT, LOOSENING THE GIRDER ALONGSIDE OF HIM!
THAK!
THAK!
THAK!

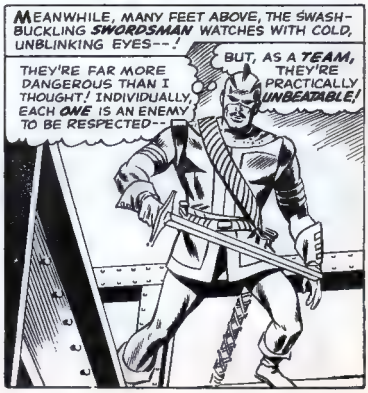
PERFECT! THAT GIRDER DROPPED RIGHT IN PLACE!
WHU
UP

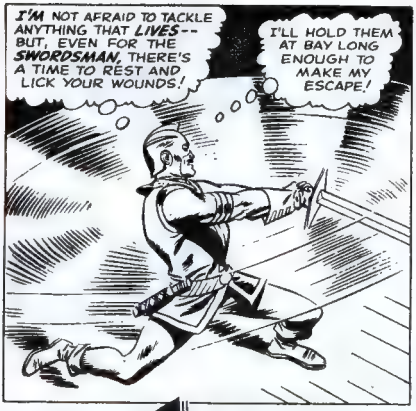
NOW, WITH MY HANDS FREE, FOR BALANCE...
...AND, A CHANCE TO SOMERSAULT TO SAFETY...
--I'M BACK IN THE FIGHT AGAIN!


A SECOND LATER...
WAK!
OKAY, SPEEDY-- GRAB CAP'S SHIELD AND GET GOING!

I RESENT THE TONE WITH WHICH YOU ADDRESS MY BROTHER! IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO GIVE THE ORDERS!
RELAX, DOLL! WOULDJA RATHER TAKE 'EM FROM THE SWORDSMAN?!!

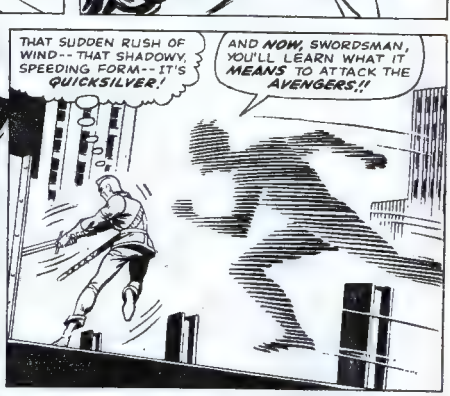
GOOD WORK, QUICKSILVER! I HAD A HUNCH YOU THREE WOULDN'T FAIL ME!
YOU CHOSE A DANGEROUS WAY TO PLAY THAT HUNCH, AVENGER!

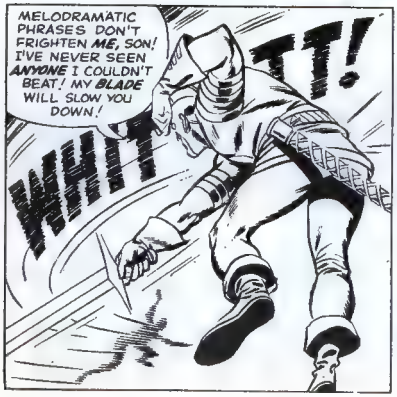

MEANWHILE, MANY FEET ABOVE, THE SWASH-BUCKLING SWORDSMAN WATCHES WITH COLD, UNBLINKING EYES--!
THEY'RE FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN I THOUGHT! INDIVIDUALLY, EACH ONE IS AN ENEMY TO BE RESPECTED--
BUT, AS A TEAM, THEY'RE PRACTICALLY UNBEATABLE!


I'M NOT AFRAID TO TACKLE ANYTHING THAT LIVES-- BUT, EVEN FOR THE SWORDSMAN, THERE'S A TIME TO REST AND LICK YOUR WOUNDS!
I'LL HOLD THEM AT BAY LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE MY ESCAPE!

HIS SWINGING SWORD IS JUST RIPE FOR ANOTHER HEX!
I CAN HARDLY SEE HIM FOR THE SUDDEN BLUR--!

-UHHH--! WHERE DID THAT GIRDER POP UP FROM??
LANG
YOU WILL SEE HIM NOW!


THAT SUDDEN RUSH OF WIND-- THAT SHADOWY, SPEEDING FORM--IT'S QUICKSILVER!
AND NOW, SWORDSMAN, YOU'LL LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO ATTACK THE AVENGERS!!

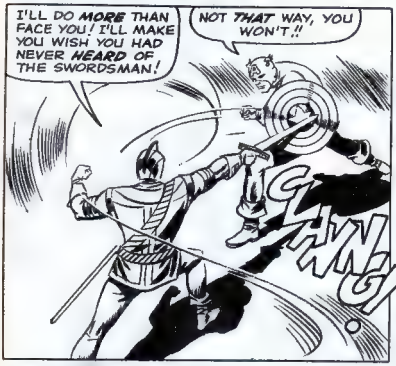

MELODRAMATIC PHRASES DON'T FRIGHTEN ME, SON! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE I COULDN'T BEAT! MY BLADE WILL SLOW YOU DOWN!
WHIT
TT!

WH-WHERE'D HE GO?? I DON'T-- OH!
THERE YOU ARE! DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU, EH?
THAT PLANK? NO TIME TO DODGE IT--!
ON THE CONTRARY --I HOPED YOU'D SEE ME!
JUST A LITTLE CLOSER NOW--!

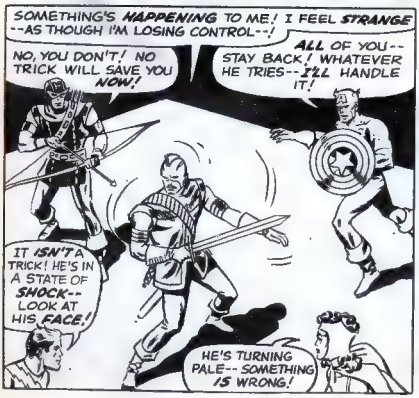
ALTHOUGH I CANNOT OUT-RUN YOUR ATTACK, MY SWORD CAN DO MY RUNNING FOR ME!

QUICKSILVER--ENOUGH! LEAVE HIM FOR ME! THE PRIVILEGE IS MINE!
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
VERY WELL, AVENGER!

TURN, SWORDSMAN! TURN AND FACE ME!
KLANG!


I'LL DO MORE THAN FACE YOU! I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD NEVER HEARD OF THE SWORDSMAN!
NOT THAT WAY, YOU WON'T!!
CHANG!

NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SWORD CAN DO, MY SHIELD CAN COUNTER-ACT IT!
AND, ONCE THE POWER OF YOUR SWORD IS GONE, THE SWORDSMAN WILL BE THROUGH!


SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ME! I FEEL STRANGE--AS THOUGH I'M LOSING CONTROL--!
NO, YOU DON'T! NO TRICK WILL SAVE YOU NOW!
ALL OF YOU--STAY BACK! WHATEVER HE TRIES--I'LL HANDLE IT!
IT ISN'T A TRICK! HE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK--LOOK AT HIS FACE!
HE'S TURNING PALE--SOMETHING IS WRONG!

LOOK! BEFORE OUR EYES--HE--HE'S VANISHING!
IT ISN'T POSSIBLE! HIS ONLY "MAGIC" LIES IN HIS SWORDSMANSHIP!
THIS ISN'T MY DOING! IT--MUST BE--ONE OF YOU!

AND, THEN AND THERE--BEFORE THE STARTLED EYES OF THE ASSEMBLED AVENGERS, THE ONCE-SWAGGERING ***SWORDSMAN*** FADES INTO APPARENT ***NOTHINGNESS--!***

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE ROBBED OF YOUR VICTORY, CAP!! THE SWORDSMAN'S ***ESCAPED*** US!

ESCAPED? I ***WONDER!*** HE DIDN'T VANISH ***WILLINGLY!***

BUT, HOW DID IT ***HAPPEN??*** SURELY, NONE OF ***US*** HAD THE POWER--!

IT'S ***YOUR*** FAULT, WINGHEAD! IF YOU HAD LET US ***ALL*** ATTACK HIM--!

I ***AGREE*** WITH HAWKEYE! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO WORK AS A ***TEAM***--AND THAT MEANS ***ALL*** OF US!

PIETRO! HAWKEYE! THIS IS NO TIME FOR US TO SQUABBLE THIS WAY! WE HAVE TO LEARN WHAT ***HAPPENED*** TO THE SWORDSMAN!

WHAT'S THE ODDS? IF WE ***DO*** FIND HIM CAP'LL PROBABLY BLOW THE BIT AGAIN!

QUIET! ALL OF YOU! YOU'VE SAID ***ENOUGH!*** IF IT'S A ***BATTLE*** YOU WANT, HAWKEYE--!

IT WOULD BE A ***PLEASURE,*** YOU SHIELD-SLINGIN' SQUARE--BUT I DON'T PICK FIGHTS WITH ***OLDER*** MEN!

YOU'RE ***BOTH*** TOO HOT-TEMPERED! THAT IS WHY ***I, QUICKSILVER,*** SHOULD BE LEADER!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, CAPTAIN AMERICA TURNS ON HIS HEELS AND HEADS FOR AVENGERS H.Q. FOLLOWED BY THE OTHERS--

...***NONE*** OF THEM NOTICING THE EVIL PAIR OF EYES THAT HAVE WATCHED THE ENTIRE INCIDENT--ALTHOUGH THEIR OWNER IS HALF A WORLD AWAY!

...THE SAME EYES THAT NOW REGARD A MYSTIFIED ***SWORDSMAN*** WITH DIABOLIC AMUSEMENT...!

WHERE IN BLAZES ***AM*** I?? AND HOW DID I ***GET*** HERE?

THEN, IN A NEARBY CHAMBER, THE ENERGY FROM A JEWELLED RING SETS POWERFUL FORCES IN MOTION...
THOSE OVERSIZED DOORS ARE SLOWLY SWINGING OPEN! WHOEVER'S BEHIND ALL THIS MUST BE ON THE OTHER SIDE--!
ENTER, SWORDSMAN! I GIVE YOU LEAVE TO STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF TRUE GREATNESS...!
WHO ARE YOU, MISTER-- AND WHAT'S ALL THIS HOCUS-POKUS MALARKY ABOUT??
MEN CALL ME--THE MANDARIN! AND YOU WILL SOON LEARN THAT THIS IS FAR MORE THAN THE "MALARKY" YOU SPEAK OF!
THE MANDARIN?!! I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF YOU AS A LEGEND --AN OLD WIVES' TALE--!!
THAT IS AS I WISHED IT! IT IS NOT YET TIME FOR THE WORLD TO BE AWARE OF ME--OR OF MY PLAN FOR COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THIS UNSUSPECTING PLANET!
AND SO, WITH THE SINISTER WORDS OF THE MANDARIN ECHOING IN OUR EARS WE TAKE OUR LEAVE UNTIL NEXT WEEK!

ODD SPORTS

FISHING WITH A SPEAR!

One of the strangest fishing competitions takes place annually in the Godivari River in Rajahmundry, India. But instead of sitting on the river bank with a rod and line, the fishermen stand on rafts on the river and fish with spears.

The rafts are only two feet long and six feet wide, and the fishermen are armed with a 12-foot spear. The contest is as much a test of balance as aim.

The fishermen stand upright and keep a precarious balance on their narrow rafts. Immediately he spots a fish swimming within range, the fisherman jabs at it with his spear.

That is when disaster strikes, for more often than not the fisherman loses his balance and topples off the raft. Anyone falling into the water is disqualified.

Contests last for an hour and the winner is the fisherman who spears the most fish in that time. An expert can make a catch of about a dozen fish.

During one competition only two fishermen were left in the running with ten minutes to go before the time limit ended. Suddenly, the man who up till then was in the lead with ten fish toppled off his raft, and the second fisherman who had speared only seven fish was declared the winner.

But the champion had a shock when he came ashore. Two of the spectators declared that they had seen a small boy swim under his rival's raft and tip it over.

Then someone produced a very wet small boy who confessed that the "champion" had bribed him to capsize any fisherman likely to beat him!

SKIPPING WITH A POLE

A young man of 17 won the final of the pole-skipping championship of Batah in Sumatra. Eliminating heats are held throughout the island, and the day of the final is a public holiday.

Pole skipping is not so much a matter of skipping as a test of endurance. Contestants go into strict training and carry out special exercises to strengthen their leg muscles.

Instead of using a rope, the skippers have to jump up and down to avoid tripping over a bamboo pole which is held by two men and swung backwards and forwards.

Occasionally the pole is bobbed up and down, just to make things more difficult. All the skipping is done in bare feet.

The championship goes to the competitor who can skip longest without falling over. Relays of pole swingers, who work for 30 minutes at a time, ensure that there is no slackening off to make things easier for the skippers.

About 18 competitors took part in the final, and the champion won his title by skipping over the swinging pole for nearly four hours.

STILTS DERBY ON ICE

Stilt racing on frozen lakes and rivers is a popular winter sport in parts of Siberia. The race is usually over a mile-long course and competitors use stilts six feet high.

Keeping one's balance on the slippery surface takes years of practice and the real experts all started almost as soon as they could walk.

Before the race, the course is carefully swept of snow which otherwise would give the stilts a better grip on the glass-like surface. The bases of the stilts are only three inches in diameter, and before a race every contestant's stilts are carefully examined by stewards to ensure that they are the regulation diameter.

The secret of keeping balance and lasting the course is to take short steps on the stilts. Anyone who tries long strides is bound to come down.

The contests are open to both men and women, and on several occasions races have been won by the latter. Many stilt-race meetings include junior events, which are open to boys and girls between the ages of eight and fourteen.

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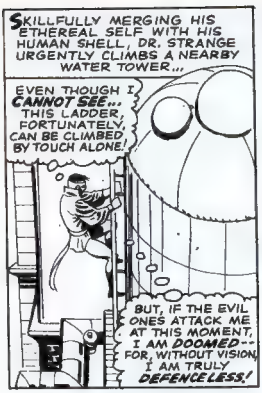
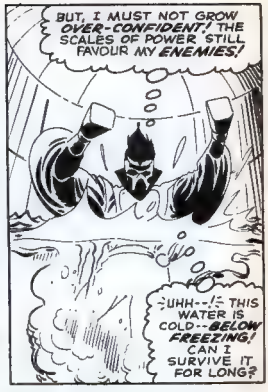
Dr. STRANGE, MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!

"WITH NONE BESIDE ME!"

Reg. T.M. & © Marvel Comics Group.1965


SKILLFULLY MERGING HIS ETHEREAL SELF WITH HIS HUMAN SHELL, DR. STRANGE URGENTLY CLIMBS A NEARBY WATER TOWER...
EVEN THOUGH I CANNOT SEE... THIS LADDER, FORTUNATELY, CAN BE CLIMBED BY TOUCH ALONE!
BUT, IF THE EVIL ONES ATTACK ME AT THIS MOMENT, I AM DOOMED-- FOR, WITHOUT VISION, I AM TRULY DEFENCELESS!

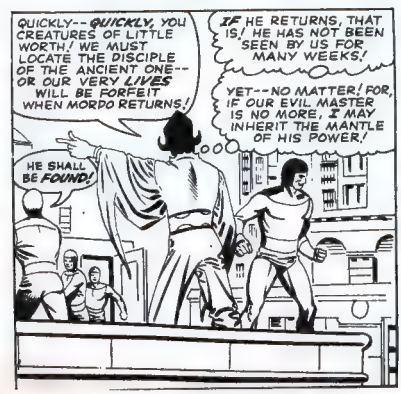
PRAISED BE THE HOARY HOSTS OF HOGGOTH! I MADE IT TO THE TOP--IN SAFETY! NOW TO GIVE MY MATERIAL FORM A NEW HIDING-PLACE!
THIS IS CERTAINLY THE LAST PLACE A PURSUER WOULD THINK TO LOOK!


BUT, I MUST NOT GROW OVER-CONFIDENT! THE SCALES OF POWER STILL FAVOUR MY ENEMIES!
UHH--! THIS WATER IS COLD--BELOW FREEZING! CAN I SURVIVE IT FOR LONG?

YET, I MUST CHANCE IT! MY BODY MUST BE HIDDEN WHERE IT WILL NOT BE FOUND!
MY ARM-- HOOKED OVER A RUNG THUS --WILL PROTECT ME FROM DROWNING!

AND NOW, THE MOMENT HAS COME TO RISK ALL--IN A FINAL ATTEMPT TO REGAIN MY CAPE AND AMULET!
FOR, ONLY WITH THEM MAY I HOPE THAT VICTORY WILL BE MINE!

THEN, HIS WRAITH-LIKE SHAPE PASSING NOISELESSLY THROUGH METALLIC SIDES OF THE TOWER, THE MIGHTY SORCERER BEHOLDS...
THE DEMON-- AND BARON MORDO'S HENCHMEN! THEY'RE LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED IN THEIR RELENTLESS SEARCH FOR ME!


QUICKLY--QUICKLY, YOU CREATURES OF LITTLE WORTH! WE MUST LOCATE THE DISCIPLE OF THE ANCIENT ONE-- OR OUR VERY LIVES WILL BE FORFEIT WHEN MORDO RETURNS!
IF HE RETURNS, THAT IS! HE HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY US FOR MANY WEEKS!
YET--NO MATTER! FOR, IF OUR EVIL MASTER IS NO MORE, I MAY INHERIT THE MANTLE OF HIS POWER!
HE SHALL BE FOUND!

LOOK CAREFULLY, MY FELLOWS! EVEN IN HIS BLINDFOLDED STATE, DR. STRANGE IS A FORMIDABLE ADVERSARY!
HOW MUCH BOLDER THEY WOULD BE IF THEY KNEW HOW NEARLY HELPLESS I AM!
BUT THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE ON IDLE THOUGHTS! I HAVE ONLY MINUTES BEFORE THEY RE-ENTER THE BUILDING!

GRIMLY, THE SPIRIT SELF OF DR. STRANGE BEGINS ITS URGENT SEARCH FOR THE MYSTIC POSSESSIONS SO VITAL TO HIS OWN CAUSE -- AND TO MANKIND'S!

WITH EACH TICK OF THE CLOCK, MY TIME GROWS SHORTER! IF ONLY I COULD SUMMON MY CAPE AND AMULET WITH A MAGICAL SPELL!--

BUT, IN MY ETHEREAL STATE, SUCH A SPELL WILL NOT WORK--- UNLESS I AM WITHIN A STONE'S THROW OF THEM!

MEANWHILE, HIS FIENDISH FOES ARE HUNTING JUST AS FEARFULLY-- JUST AS DESPERATELY-- FOR THE SORCERER HIMSELF!

RESULTS SO FAR ARE NEGATIVE, FAIR ONE! WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE THE PRISONER!

KEEP SEARCHING, FOOL! SURELY ONE BLINDFOLDED MORTAL CANNOT ESCAPE ALL OF YOU!

I WARN YOU--DO NOT ANGER ME THUS WITH HARSH WORDS! FOR, MY POWER IS EASILY THE EQUAL OF YOUR OWN!

ENOUGH--BEGONE, VAIN IMAGE! OFFEND MY SIGHT NO LONGER! BUT BE WARNED--FIND DR. STRANGE AT ONCE, OR SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!

FOR POWER BELONGS TO NONE-- SAVE THOSE WITH DARING ENOUGH TO WIELD IT!

AT THAT PRECISE INSTANT, A GHOSTLY FIGURE APPEARS, PASSING NOISELESSLY THROUGH THE SIDE OF A SOMBRE, GREY STONE WALL...

AH--AT LAST! IN MY ECTO-PLASMIC FORM, I CAN SENSE A SUBTLE AURA OF MAGIC WITHIN THAT ADJOINING BUILDING!

HMM!-- FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, A DABBLER IN THE MYSTIC ARTS MUST RESIDE WITHIN!

IN ALL PROBABILITY, THE OWNER IS ONE OF MORDO'S MEN--AND IS EVEN NOW TAKING PART IN THE SEARCH FOR ME!

IF THE THINGS I SEEK ARE PRESENT IN THIS FOREBODING PLACE, MY TELEPATHIC SPELL WILL UNCOVER THEM!

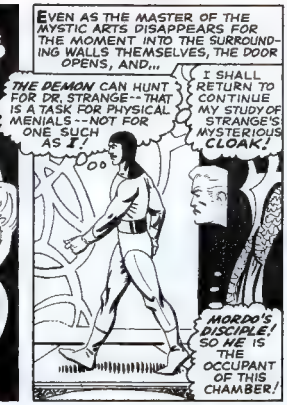
CLOAK OR AMULET, WHEREVER YE MAY BE-- MAY THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK REVEAL THEE TO ME!

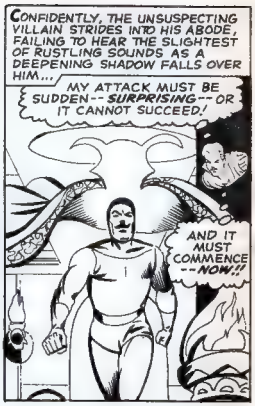
THEN, IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE EERIE STUDIO, A SILENT SHADOW STIRS-- AND FLOATS SLOWLY INTO THE PATH OF AN ERRANT MOONBEAM...

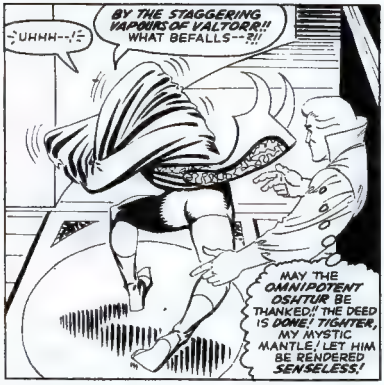
CAN IT BE? DO MY ANXIOUS EYES DECEIVE ME?

BUT--NO! IT IS TRULY MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION!

FOOTSTEPS! SOMEONE IS COMING....!
MY ASTRAL SELF COULD ESCAPE HIS DETECTION --BUT, IF I FLEE NOW, MY CAPE MAY BE LOST TO ME FOREVER!
NO, FLIGHT IS NOT THE ANSWER! THE TIME FOR RETREAT IS PAST!


EVEN AS THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS DISAPPEARS FOR THE MOMENT INTO THE SURROUNDING WALLS THEMSELVES, THE DOOR OPENS, AND...
THE DEMON CAN HUNT FOR DR. STRANGE--THAT IS A TASK FOR PHYSICAL MENIALS--NOT FOR ONE SUCH AS I!
I SHALL RETURN TO CONTINUE MY STUDY OF STRANGE'S MYSTERIOUS CLOAK!
MORDO'S DISCIPLE! SO HE IS THE OCCUPANT OF THIS CHAMBER!


CONFIDENTLY, THE UNSUSPECTING VILLAIN STRIDES INTO HIS ABODE, FAILING TO HEAR THE SLIGHTEST OF RUSTLING SOUNDS AS A DEEPENING SHADOW FALLS OVER HIM...
MY ATTACK MUST BE SUDDEN--SURPRISING--OR IT CANNOT SUCCEED!
AND IT MUST COMMENCE --NOW!!


-UHHH--!-
BY THE STAGGERING VAPORS OF VALTORR!! WHAT BEFALLS--?!!
MAY THE OMNIPOTENT OSHTUR BE THANKED!! THE DEED IS DONE! TIGHTER, MY MYSTIC MANTLE! LET HIM BE RENDERED SENSELESS!

AND, INDEED, A FEW SECONDS LATER...
GOOD! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS!
IN SUCH A STATE, HE IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MENTAL CONTROL--EVEN BY MY WEAKER ECTOPLASMIC SELF!
HOW IRONIC THAT MORDO'S OWN DISCIPLE MAY BE MY MEANS OF LIBERATION!

--FOR, WITH MY CLOAK OF LEVITATION, I SHALL TRANSPORT HIM TO WHERE MY BODY IS HIDDEN, SO THAT HE MAY FREE IT ONCE AGAIN!
THEN, AND ONLY THEN, WILL I STAND AN EQUAL CHANCE AGAINST THOSE WHO THREATEN ME!

THE ROOFTOPS ARE NOW CLEAR, SO THERE IS LITTLE DANGER OF HIS BEING SEEN BY HIS COMPANIONS--!
--AND, IN A FEW MORE MINUTES, IN MY OWN BODY, I WILL BE FREE TO HUNT THEM DOWN--ON MY OWN TERMS!

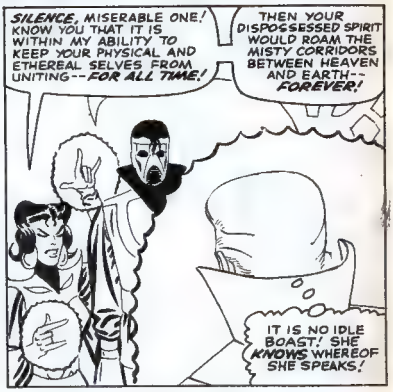
HOWEVER, THE FATES ARE NOT YET READY TO CEASE THEIR TOYING WITH THE FORTUNES OF DR. STRANGE, FOR...
MY PHYSICAL SELF--GONE! THEY MUST HAVE DISCOVERED IT...
BUT NOW--??
IF THE MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS COULD WITNESS A SCENE NOW TAKING PLACE IN A NEARBY BUILDING, HE WOULD FIND HIS TORMENTING QUESTION ANSWERED...
DR. STRANGE WAS INDEED NAIVE TO BELIEVE HE COULD LONG ESCAPE A FEMALE AS SKILLED IN MAGIC AS I!
HE DID NOT REALIZE THAT A SPELL WHICH I PREVIOUSLY PLACED ON HIS MASK AND GLOVES WOULD LEAD ME TO HIM!
NOW, TRULY, HIS CAUSE IS LOST! FOR HE CANNOT LONG REMAIN SEPARATED FROM HIS PHYSICAL BODY!
AND, WHEN HE COMES TO ITS RESCUE, HIS SPIRIT FORM WILL BE NO MATCH FOR MY OWN POTENT SORCERY!
THE MINUTES DRAG SLOWLY BY! THEN...
BEHOLD, FAIR ONE! I HAVE DONE IT! I HAVE MASTERED THE SECRET OF THE ACCURSED ONE'S CAPE!
FOOL! EVEN SO, YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN IT WHERE OTHER EYES MIGHT SEE YOU!
IF SHE BUT KNEW THAT MORDO'S REVIVED DISCIPLE IS NOW UNDER MY MENTAL CONTROL! FROM HIM I HAVE LEARNED OF THEIR DEADLY PLOT AGAINST ME!
HE LED ME HERE, TO THE PLACE WHERE MY MORTAL BODY IS BEING HELD PRISONER--AND ME SHALL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF ITS FREEDOM!
BUT SHE WILL LEARN SOON ENOUGH! FOR, WHEN HER GUARD IS LOWERED, I SHALL CAST A SPELL ON HER--THROUGH HIM!
WHAT OF YOU? HAVE YOU UNLOCKED THE SECRET OF STRANGE'S AMULET YET?
NO--BUT IT IS MERELY A MATTER OF TIME...!

SUDDENLY... MAY THE VISHANT! PROTECT ME! SOME MAGICAL SPELL HAS ME IN ITS GRIP! BUT NOW? WHO COULD HAVE DETECTED ME?

WITH MY SPIRIT STATE STILL SEPARATED FROM MY PHYSICAL SELF, I AM FAR TOO WEAK TO RESIST!
MY ONLY HOPE IS TO ALLOW MYSELF TO BE DRAWN INSIDE--AND THERE AWAIT A CHANCE TO BREAK THE SPELL!

SO, DR. STRANGE--YOU WOULD SEEK TO PLAY GAMES WITH YOUR SUPERIORS! BUT MY MYSTIC SENSES EASILY DETECTED YOUR PRESENCE!
YOU KNEW I WAS THERE--ALL THE TIME!?

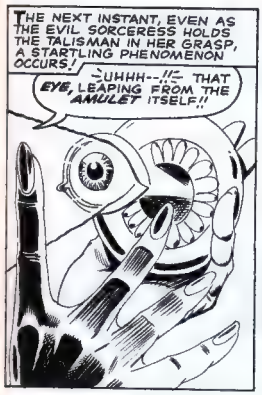
OF COURSE! I MERELY PRETENDED TO BE FOOLED, SO THAT I MIGHT TRAP YOU THE MORE COMPLETELY! AND TRAP YOU I HAVE!
SO IT WOULD SEEM! YET, MANY HAVE SPOKEN THOSE WORDS BEFORE--AND HAVE LIVED TO REGRET THEM!


SILENCE, MISERABLE ONE! KNOW YOU THAT IT IS WITHIN MY ABILITY TO KEEP YOUR PHYSICAL AND ETHEREAL SELVES FROM UNITING--FOR ALL TIME!
THEN YOUR DISPOSSESSED SPIRIT WOULD ROAM THE MISTY CORRIDORS BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH--FOREVER!
IT IS NO IDLE BOAST! SHE KNOWS WHEREOF SHE SPEAKS!

BUT IT IS MY WISH TO BE MERCIFUL! REVEAL TO ME THE SECRET OF YOUR MYSTIC AMULET, AND YOU MAY LIVE--AS MY SLAVE!
REFUSE--AND PAY THE PENALTY OF ETERNAL OBLIVION!
DECIDE AT ONCE--FOR MY PATIENCE IS AT AN END!

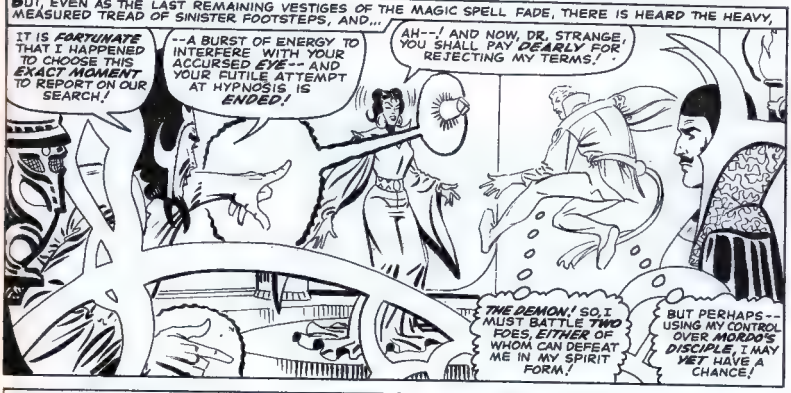
I HAVE ONLY ONE FINAL, DESPERATE HOPE! SINCE THE AMULET HAS BOTH A PHYSICAL AND A SPIRITUAL FORM, I CAN CONTROL IT WITH MY THOUGHTS--AS I DID THE CLOAK!

I MUST SEIZE THE MOMENT AND ACT SWIFTLY--SO THAT SHE CANNOT COUNTERATTACK!
FOR, IF SHE DOES, THEN I AM TRULY DOOMED... FOR INFINITY!


THE NEXT INSTANT, EVEN AS THE EVIL SORCERESS HOLDS THE TALISMAN IN HER GRASP, A STARTLING PHENOMENON OCCURS!
UHHH--!!-- THAT EYE, LEAPING FROM THE AMULET ITSELF!!

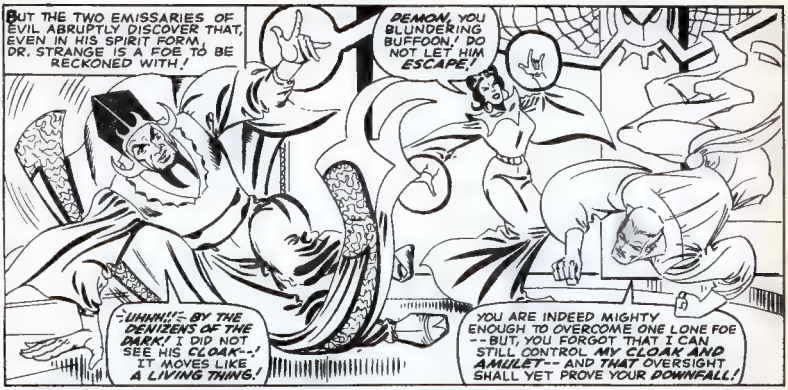
IT--IT'S HYPNOTIZING ME! MY VERY WILL IS BEING SAPPED--AND I CAN DO NOTHING TO RESIST--!!

MY PLAN IS SUCCEEDING! EACH FATEFUL SECOND SHE STARES AT THE MYSTIC EYE, HER MAGIC HOLD ON ME IS DISSOLVING---!! JUST A FEW HEARTBEATS MORE, AND--


BUT, EVEN AS THE LAST REMAINING VESTIGES OF THE MAGIC SPELL FADE, THERE IS HEARD THE HEAVY, MEASURED TREAD OF SINISTER FOOTSTEPS, AND...
IT IS FORTUNATE THAT I HAPPENED TO CHOOSE THIS EXACT MOMENT TO REPORT ON OUR SEARCH!
--A BURST OF ENERGY TO INTERFERE WITH YOUR ACCURSED EYE--AND YOUR FUTILE ATTEMPT AT HYPNOSIS IS ENDED!
AH--! AND NOW, DR. STRANGE, YOU SHALL PAY DEARLY FOR REJECTING MY TERMS!
THE DEMON! SO, I MUST BATTLE TWO FOES, EITHER OF WHOM CAN DEFEAT ME IN MY SPIRIT FORM!
BUT PERHAPS--USING MY CONTROL OVER MORDO'S DISCIPLE, I MAY YET HAVE A CHANCE!

SHE IS AS CLEVER AS SHE IS RUTHLESS! BEFORE I COULD COMMAND MY MENTAL CAPTIVE TO AID ME, SHE RENDERED HIM POWERLESS!
UNNNHH....!
YOU SHALL NOT USE ONE OF OUR OWN NUMBER AGAINST US, IMPUDENT ONE!

IN YOUR ECTOPLASMIC STATE, YOU ARE NO MATCH FOR ONE OF US, MUCH LESS BOTH!
THAT IS NOT FOR YOU TO SAY!! I SHALL NEVER CEASE STRUGGLING--NOT WHILE I LIVE!
THEN, WE SHALL END YOUR STRUGGLE--BY ENDING YOUR LIFE!


BUT THE TWO EMISSARIES OF EVIL ABRUPTLY DISCOVER THAT, EVEN IN HIS SPIRIT FORM, DR. STRANGE IS A FOE TO BE RECKONED WITH!
DEMON, YOU BLUNDERING BUFFOON! DO NOT LET HIM ESCAPE!
-UHHH!!-- BY THE DENIZENS OF THE DARK! I DID NOT SEE HIS CLOAK--! IT MOVES LIKE A LIVING THING!
YOU ARE INDEED MIGHTY ENOUGH TO OVERCOME ONE LONE FOE --BUT, YOU FORGOT THAT I CAN STILL CONTROL MY CLOAK AND AMULET-- AND THAT OVERSIGHT SHALL YET PROVE YOUR DOWNFALL!

MY SPIRIT SELF CANNOT MAKE PHYSICAL CONTACT WITH MY ENEMIES, NOR CAN IT AVOID THEIR SPELLS!
BUT, MY TWO "ALLIES" CAN --IF I USE THEM TO BEST ADVANTAGE! AND, BY THE SEVEN RINGS OF RAGGADORR, I SHALL!

THEN OCCURS AN AWESOME SIGHT UNEQUALLED IN THE ANNALS OF SORCERY, AS CLOAK AND MYSTIC EYE BATTLE DEMON AND SORCERESS FOR THE MOST VALUED OF PRIZES--A HUMAN LIFE!

IT'S A MOMENTARY STALEMATE! BUT THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH! SOMEHOW, IN SOME WAY, I MUST DEFEAT THEM!
HIS ACCURSED EYE PREVENTS ME FROM STRIKING HIM!
JUST AS HIS MAGIC CAPE INTERFERES WITH ME!

BUT WAIT! NOW HE HAS CARELESSLY LEFT THE PROTECTION OF HIS MAGICAL EFFECTS!
THIS IS INDEED OUR OPPORTUNITY TO SMASH HIM-- IF BOTH OF US HURL OUR MYSTIC BOLTS AT ONCE!
JUST AS I HOPED THEY'D DO!

FOR A SPLIT MICRO-SECOND, THE BELEAGUERED DR. STRANGE HESITATES--THEN, AS IF TO REGAIN HIS AMULET AND CLOAK, HE MAKES A DARING LEAP BACK FROM WHENCE HE CAME!
MY TIMING MUST BE--PERFECT!
LOOK OUT! HE'S DOUBLING BACK! I--ARRGHH!!
TRICKED!! HE WANTED TO MAKE EACH OF US ELIMINATE THE OTHER WITH OUR MAGIC SPELLS!
AND HIS PLAN ALMOST SUCCEEDED --FOR MY BOLT HAS STRUCK THE DEMON!

THAT FINISHES ONE FOE! BUT HIS DEFEAT HAS MERELY SERVED TO GOAD THE OTHER INTO GREATER HEIGHTS OF FRENZY!
BY CAUSING ME TO SMITE THE DEMON IN HASTE, YOU HAVE FINALLY SEALED YOUR OWN DOOM!
FOR, I CAN NO LONGER BE CONTENT JUST TO CAPTURE YOU! NOW, ONLY YOUR COMPLETE AND UTTER DESTRUCTION WILL SATISFY ME!

HOWEVER, THE NEFARIOUS WIZARDESS HAS RECKONED FOR A THIRD--AND FINAL--TIME WITHOUT HER ANTAGONIST'S TANGIBLE "ALLIES"!
THE CAPE--WRAPPING ITSELF AROUND MY ARMS!! IN THIS POSITION, I CANNOT EMPLOY ANY MAGICAL GESTURES!

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I WAS DEPENDING UPON! FOR NOW, WHILE YOUR HANDS ARE POWERLESS, THE MYSTIC EYE WILL PERFORM ITS TASK--TO MAKE YOUR WILL SUBSERVIENT TO MINE!
UHH--!

SO ENDS OUR MODERN MAGICIAN'S FEAR-FRAUGHT FROLIC WITH MORDO'S MINIONS! BUT DOC'LL BE BACK NEXT ISSUE WITH A NEW PULSE-POUNDING TALE! BE SURE TO JOIN US... WE HATE HAVING TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MISSED! TILL THEN--DON'T TAKE ANY WOODEN AMULETS, YOU MAGICIAN, YOU!

news from the floor of 64

64, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.2.

A WEEK OR SO BACK we laid on the line again the facts behind the inclusion of the Marvel comics characters in the pages of Power! At that time we should also have mentioned that *some* Marvel fans have found difficulty of late in obtaining Marvels in this country. And about this *rumour* that started going round . . . to the effect that WE POWER PEOPLE had something to do with this sudden shortage of Marvel mags. Don't ask us how or where it started, but SSSHHHEEEESSSHHH, how wrong can a rumour *be*? We *want* the good word about Marvel to spread! If for no other reason than it will also help spread the word about the Brotherhood of Power. Anyway, we checked, but we've been totally unable to come up with a positive reason for the scarcity of Marvel. All we CAN think of is if MORE comics fans are reading Marvel then those of you who are inclined to leave their shopping too late are going to be disappointed. It's the old story of supply and demand. The best goods are the first to disappear from *any* kind of shop, because they sell out first! That's why we keep on saying that the best way of making sure you get your POWER PAPER each week, is by putting in a firm order with your newsagent.

Still more or less on the same track (us and the Marvel stories) our policy of re-issuing the Marvel gems in serialised CHRONOLOGICAL form does cause some seemingly *scatty* things to happen. Because some stories were published long before others got started, we have in Power papers such eyebrow-raisers as HAWKEYE occasionally appearing in *Fantastic* as a VILLAIN . . . while at the very same time he is appearing as a HERO (one of the new Avengers) in *Terrific*. Same thing is happening with the Scarlet Witch. And just the other week, in a FANTASTIC FOUR story in *Wham* we had a post-war, pre-SHIELD NICK FURY appearing without his eye patch. Reason for that was that his story was written and drawn BEFORE Fury (as Sergeant) lost his eye in World War Two, and it wasn't until later that . . . let's leave it, tigers, it's TOO confusing. Anyway, that time we had Jolly Jay-Jay Jackson paint an eye patch on to Fury's classic features. Other times we *do* put footnotes into the stories . . . but, taken all round, it adds up to the price we must pay for seeing the Marvel classics in their original appearance order . . . AND THAT'S A PRETTY SMALL PRICE TO PAY, RIGHT?!

MEET TWENTY PROUD POWER-PACK PEOPLE . . .

Ian Gooding, Rotherham, Yorkshire; Geoffrey McFarlane, Plymouth, Devon; Gordon Montgomery, Belfast 15, N. Ireland; Ann Sellars, Barnsley, Yorkshire; Stephen Strigeon, Wigan, Lancs; Ross Murray, Peopleton, Worcs: Allan Young, Musselburgh, Midlothian; Malcolm Levey, Redcar, Yorks: Barbara Hogan, Walworth, London; Richard Page, Walsall, Staffs; M. Ashton, Erith, Kent; Charles Williams, Farnborough, Hants; John Williams, Barnsley, Yorks; Graham Duddle, Preston, Lancs; John McClean, Carryduff, Belfast; Mary Ann Daly, Garston Watford, Herts; Anita Griffin, Kilkenny, Eire; Paul Kearns, Great Barr, Birmingham 22; Clive Jones, Corsham, Wilts; Peter Wharfe, Oldham Lancs.

Just right for XMAS!

2 EXCITING ACTION-PACKED ANNUALS

FANTASTIC ANNUAL 1968

Here's the great NEW annual that brings you fresh adventures of your favourite characters from *Fantastic*, including Iron Man, Thor the Mighty, Marvel Girl, and the X Men. 94 thrill-packed pages—all in COLOUR! Only 9/6

POW! [illegible] 1968

This brand new annual provides fun and thrills galore with the fascinating characters from *Pow!* comic, including The Dolls of St. Dominic's, Nobby's Nightmares, The Group, and Dare-a-Day Davey. 94 colour-illustrated pages. Only 9/6

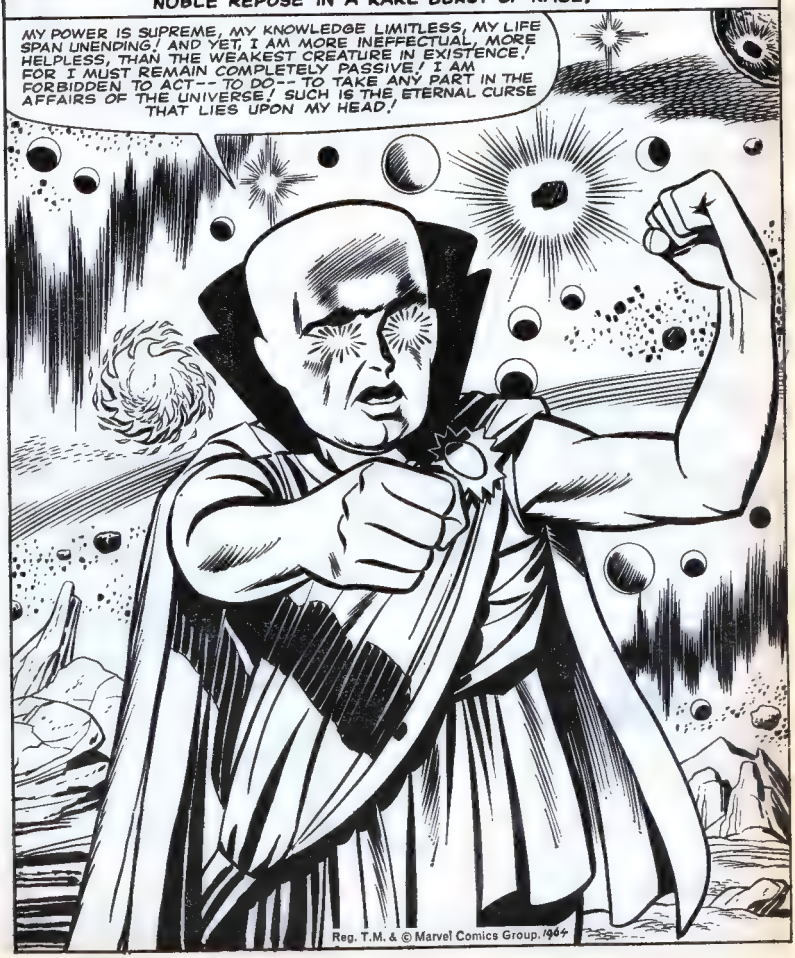
They're Sensational! Make sure of yours NOW!

ON SALE AT ALL NEWSAGENTS AND BOOKSELLERS

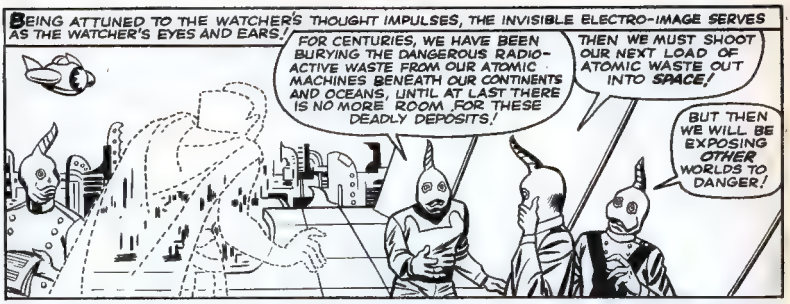
TALES OF the WATCHER

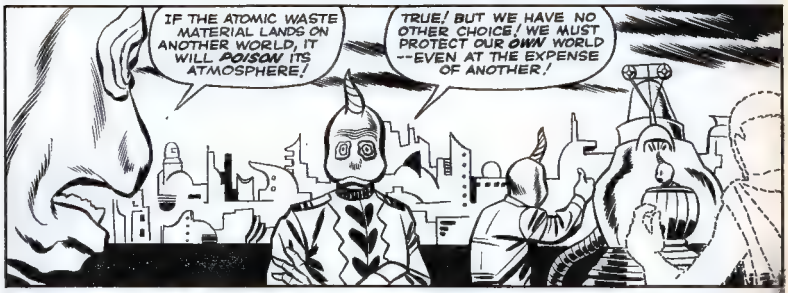
HANDS OFF!

ON A DISTANT SPINNING SPHERE STANDS THE STRANGEST FIGURE IN THE HEAVENS-- THE MAJESTIC *WATCHER*, WHOM WE NOW SEE DISCARDING HIS NOBLE REPOSE IN A RARE BURST OF RAGE!

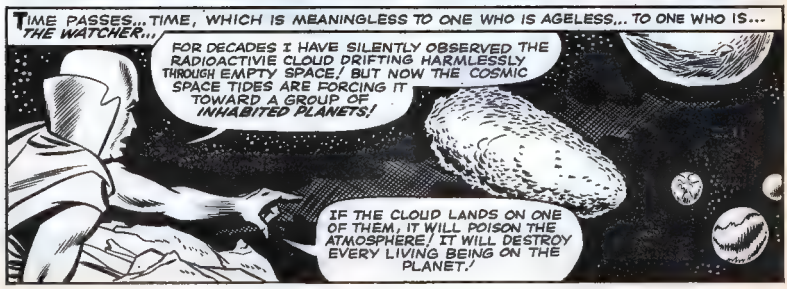


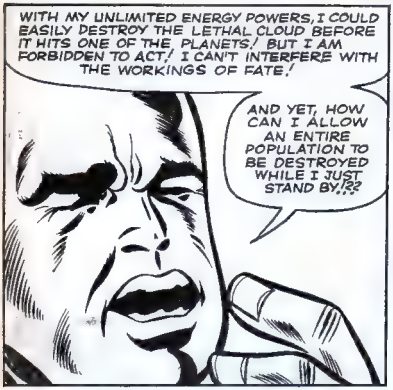
LAST WEEK WE BROUGHT YOU THE ORIGIN OF THE WATCHER'S STRANGE ORDEAL! YOU SAW HOW, AFTER AGES OF ISOLATION, THE WATCHER'S HIGHLY ADVANCED RACE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH AN INFERIOR WORLD AND GAVE IT THE SECRET OF NUCLEAR ENERGY!
WITH THE POWER OF THE ATOM, YOU CAN IRRIGATE DESERTS, CONQUER DISEASES AND KEEP MACHINES RUNNING FOR CENTURIES!
NUCLEAR ENERGY WILL TRANSFORM YOUR CIVILIZATION INTO A UTOPIA!
BUT THE RECIPIENTS OF THE GREAT GIFT DID NOT HAVE THE INTELLIGENCE TO USE IT WISELY! INSTEAD OF HARNESSING NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACE, THE PLANET'S WARRING FACTIONS CREATED MIGHTY ATOMIC WEAPONS THAT TURNED BATTLES INTO NIGHTMARISH HOLOCAUSTS!
UNTIL FINALLY, THE ENTIRE PLANET WAS NAUGHT BUT A WASTELAND!
WE CAUSED THEIR DESTRUCTION, FATHER, BY GIVING THEM UNLIMITED POWER BEFORE THEY WERE READY FOR IT! WE WANTED ONLY TO HELP THEM, BUT THIS IS THE GRIM RESULT!
ALAS, MY SON, WE CANNOT UNDO THIS TRAGEDY! BUT AS AN ATONEMENT, I VOW THAT MY ENTIRE CLAN SHALL NEVERMORE INTERFERE WITH THE DESTINIES OF OTHER PLANETS! FROM THIS MOMENT ON, WE SHALL BE A RACE OF WATCHERS! WE SHALL ROAM THE GALAXIES -- OBSERVING -- STUDYING -- BUT TAKING NO PART IN THE VAST COSMIC DRAMA!
WE SHALL NEVER INTERFERE WITH OTHER RACES!
AND SO, CONVERTING THEMSELVES INTO SHEER ENERGY, FOR THE SWIFTEST TRAVEL POSSIBLE, THE WATCHERS BEGAN THEIR FATEFUL TASK!
BUT, SUPPOSE I FIND AN ALIEN PEOPLE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE! MAY I NOT USE MY SUPERIOR POWERS TO AID THEM?
NO! WE ARE SWORN NEVER TO MEDDLE IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHERS -- NO MATTER HOW DIRE THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES SEEM!
THUS, FOR LONG, LONELY CENTURIES, IN COUNTLESS GALAXIES, THE WATCHER BORE HIS AWESOME BURDEN STOICALLY! BUT THEN, ONE CERTAIN MOMENT IN TIME AND SPACE...
THAT PLANET IN THE DISTANCE!! I SENSE DANGER THERE! I'LL SEND MY INVISIBLE ELECTRO-IMAGE TO INVESTIGATE!


BEING ATTUNED TO THE WATCHER'S THOUGHT IMPULSES, THE INVISIBLE ELECTRO-IMAGE SERVES AS THE WATCHER'S EYES AND EARS!
FOR CENTURIES, WE HAVE BEEN BURYING THE DANGEROUS RADIO-ACTIVE WASTE FROM OUR ATOMIC MACHINES BENEATH OUR CONTINENTS AND OCEANS, UNTIL AT LAST THERE IS NO MORE ROOM FOR THESE DEADLY DEPOSITS!
THEN WE MUST SHOOT OUR NEXT LOAD OF ATOMIC WASTE OUT INTO SPACE!
BUT THEN WE WILL BE EXPOSING OTHER WORLDS TO DANGER!

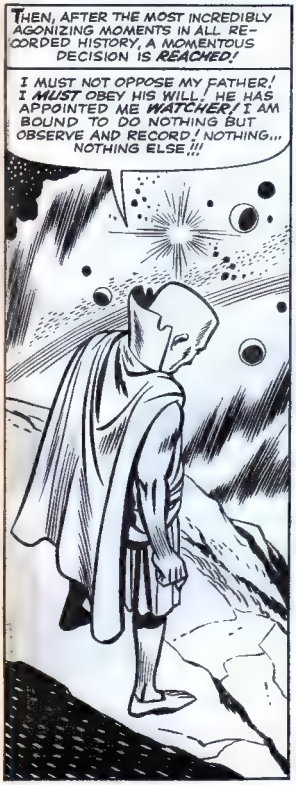

IF THE ATOMIC WASTE MATERIAL LANDS ON ANOTHER WORLD, IT WILL POISON ITS ATMOSPHERE!
TRUE! BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! WE MUST PROTECT OUR OWN WORLD --EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF ANOTHER!

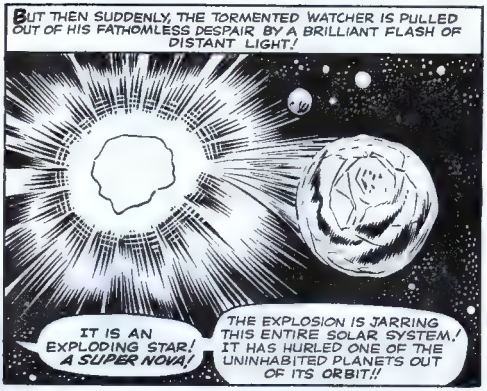
LET US AIM FOR THE MOST DESERTED PART OF THE GALAXY, WHERE THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE CAN DRIFT FOR AGES WITHOUT COLLIDING INTO ANYTHING!
BUT EVENTUALLY IT WILL HIT ANOTHER CELESTIAL BODY... IT WILL PUT AN END TO ALL LIFE THERE!
THEY HAVE SENT THE DANGEROUS RADIOACTIVE WASTE OUT INTO SPACE!
DO NOT THINK OF SUCH A TRAGEDY! THINK ONLY THAT WE ARE SAVING OURSELVES --AS WE MUST!

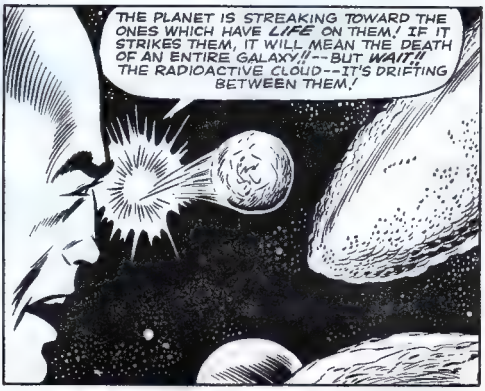

TIME PASSES... TIME, WHICH IS MEANINGLESS TO ONE WHO IS AGELESS... TO ONE WHO IS... THE WATCHER...!
FOR DECADES I HAVE SILENTLY OBSERVED THE RADIOACTIVIE CLOUD DRIFTING HARMLESSLY THROUGH EMPTY SPACE! BUT NOW THE COSMIC SPACE TIDES ARE FORCING IT TOWARD A GROUP OF INHABITED PLANETS!
IF THE CLOUD LANDS ON ONE OF THEM, IT WILL POISON THE ATMOSPHERE! IT WILL DESTROY EVERY LIVING BEING ON THE PLANET!


WITH MY UNLIMITED ENERGY POWERS, I COULD EASILY DESTROY THE LETHAL CLOUD BEFORE IT HITS ONE OF THE PLANETS! BUT I AM FORBIDDEN TO ACT! I CAN'T INTERFERE WITH THE WORKINGS OF FATE!
AND YET, HOW CAN I ALLOW AN ENTIRE POPULATION TO BE DESTROYED WHILE I JUST STAND BY!??

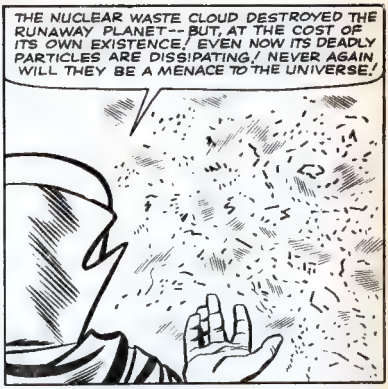
HAS ANY LIVING BEING EVER BEEN CONFRONTED WITH SO GRIM--SO AWESOME--A DILEMMA ?? IF I DO NOT ACT, MILLIONS WILL DIE!! AND IF I DO ACT, I WILL BE DEFYING MY MOST SACRED OATH!

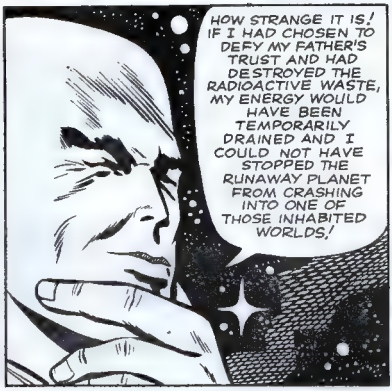

THEN, AFTER THE MOST INCREDIBLY AGONIZING MOMENTS IN ALL RECORDED HISTORY, A MOMENTOUS DECISION IS REACHED!
I MUST NOT OPPOSE MY FATHER! I MUST OBEY HIS WILL! HE HAS APPOINTED ME WATCHER! I AM BOUND TO DO NOTHING BUT OBSERVE AND RECORD! NOTHING... NOTHING ELSE!!!


BUT THEN SUDDENLY, THE TORMENTED WATCHER IS PULLED OUT OF HIS FATHOMLESS DESPAIR BY A BRILLIANT FLASH OF DISTANT LIGHT!
IT IS AN EXPLODING STAR! A SUPER NOVA!
THE EXPLOSION IS JARRING THIS ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM! IT HAS HURLED ONE OF THE UNINHABITED PLANETS OUT OF ITS ORBIT!!

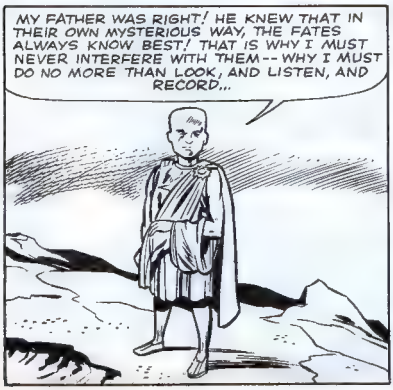

THE PLANET IS STREAKING TOWARD THE ONES WHICH HAVE LIFE ON THEM! IF IT STRIKES THEM, IT WILL MEAN THE DEATH OF AN ENTIRE GALAXY!!--BUT WAIT!! THE RADIOACTIVE CLOUD--IT'S DRIFTING BETWEEN THEM!

MINUTES LATER, THE RUNAWAY PLANET HITS THE DEADLY RADIOACTIVE CLOUD, CAUSING AN UNIMAGINABLY POWERFUL ATOMIC EXPLOSION!


THE NUCLEAR WASTE CLOUD DESTROYED THE RUNAWAY PLANET--BUT, AT THE COST OF ITS OWN EXISTENCE! EVEN NOW ITS DEADLY PARTICLES ARE DISSIPATING! NEVER AGAIN WILL THEY BE A MENACE TO THE UNIVERSE!


HOW STRANGE IT IS! IF I HAD CHOSEN TO DEFY MY FATHER'S TRUST AND HAD DESTROYED THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE, MY ENERGY WOULD HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY DRAINED AND I COULD NOT HAVE STOPPED THE RUNAWAY PLANET FROM CRASHING INTO ONE OF THOSE INHABITED WORLDS!

THUS, BY KEEPING MY VOW AND DOING NOTHING, I HAVE SAVED AN ENTIRE POPULATION!


MY FATHER WAS RIGHT! HE KNEW THAT IN THEIR OWN MYSTERIOUS WAY, THE FATES ALWAYS KNOW BEST! THAT IS WHY I MUST NEVER INTERFERE WITH THEM -- WHY I MUST DO NO MORE THAN LOOK, AND LISTEN, AND RECORD...

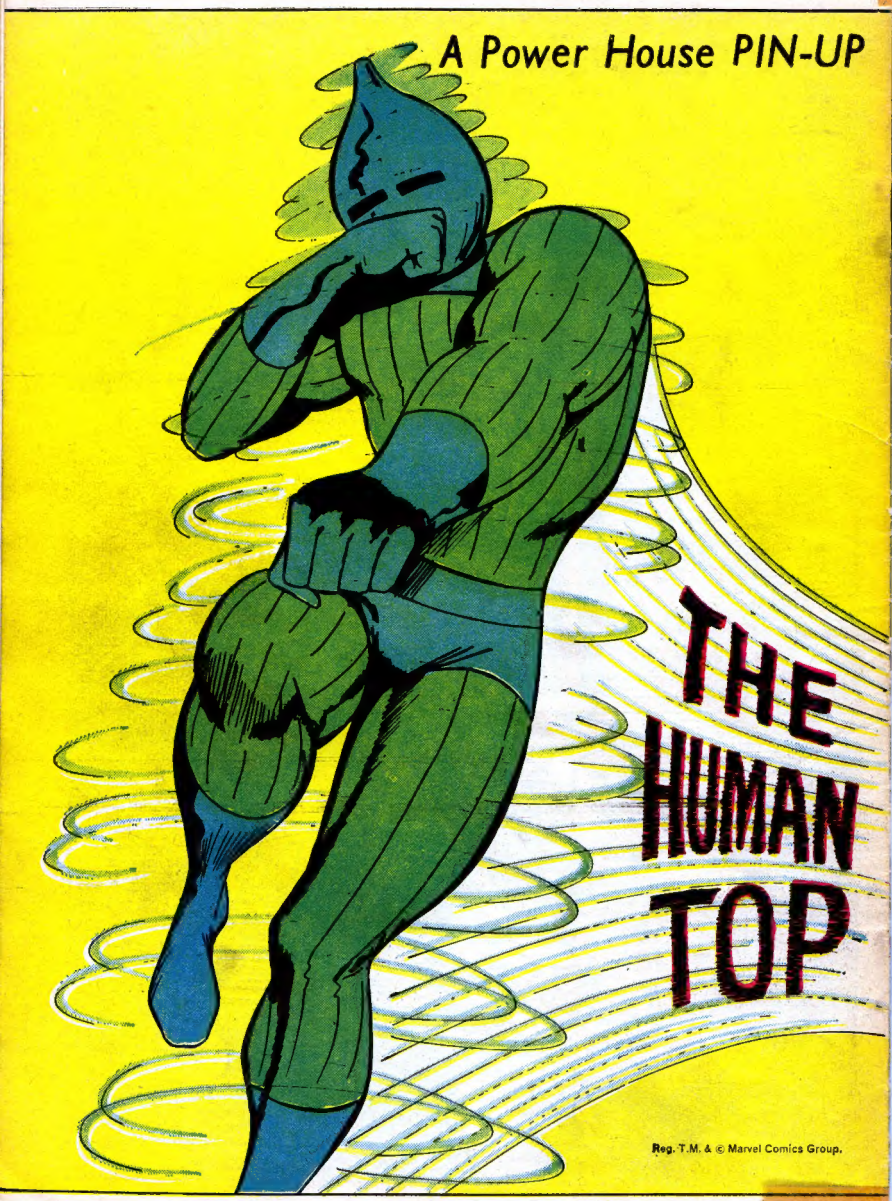
...FOR I AM... THE WATCHER!
NEXT WEEK:— PLOT TO STEAL THE SUN!

DON STARR HAS AN... APPOINTMENT WITH FEAR!

DON STARR ACCOMPANIES PSYCHIC RESEARCHER JERMYN FORSTER TO BRATHBY HALL TO INVESTIGATE STORIES OF HAUNTINGS. DISCOVERING A DEADLY SNAKE IN HIS BED, DON FIRES THREE BULLETS INTO IT—**ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT IT DOES NOT EXIST!**

I'VE ALREADY DEALT WITH ONE 'GHOST' TONIGHT — I CAN COPE WITH THIS ONE!
NOT SO FAST, STARR. I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOU!
AS STARR RACES THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR FORSTER TRIPS...
A WIRE ACROSS THE STEPS! AAAH!
UNAWARE OF THE ACCIDENT BEHIND HIM, DON RACES ACROSS THE GROUNDS...
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE THAT THIS IS NO GHOST— AND THAT'S TO CATCH IT!
BUT THIS IS ONE GHOST HE IS NOT GOING TO CATCH. FOR AS HE DRAWS NEAR...
IT'S A SWAMP! I CAN'T MOVE!
FORSTER! DON'T COME TOO CLOSE! I'M TRAPPED IN A QUAGMIRE! GET SOME PLANKS!
BUT NO PLANKS APPEAR! AND NO FORSTER!
WHERE THE DICKENS ARE YOU, FORSTER! HELP! HELP!
REMEMBERING AN OLD TIP, DON GAVE UP STRUGGLING AND KEPT QUITE STILL...
THIS'LL BUY ME A LITTLE TIME — AND TIME'S WHAT I NEED MOST RIGHT NOW! UNLESS FORSTER GETS HERE IN A FEW MINUTES I'VE HAD IT!

WITH FORSTER UNCONSCIOUS, FLAXMANN ASLEEP, AND DON TRAPPED IN A QUAGMIRE, THE MAIN PLAYERS IN OUR DRAMA ARE REMARKABLY STATIC! SO LET'S SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO JANE AND RAWLINGS. SOON AFTER DON SMASHES THE WINDOW...
WHAT'S HAPPENED, PETER? I HEARD GLASS BEING BROKEN AND THEN SHOUTING!
IT'S ALL RIGHT, JANE DARLING! STARR THOUGHT HE'D SEEN SOMETHING SO HE AND FORSTER HAVE GONE TO HAVE A LOOK! NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!
OH PETER, I HATE THIS HOUSE! EVER SINCE MR FLAXMANN FIRST BROUGHT ME HERE I'VE...
PETER! LOOK! THREE FLASHES AND BANGS LIKE REVOLVER SHOTS! THEY CAME FROM THE SWAMP!
THAT'S WHERE STARR AND FORSTER HAVE GONE!
BUT THEY CAN'T HAVE GOT INTO THE SWAMP! IT HAS A BARBED WIRE FENCE ROUND IT!
FOR FIVE SECONDS RAWLINGS IS ROOTED TO THE SPOT. THEN HE TURNS AND HURTLES DOWN THE STAIRS...
I FELL AND KNOCKED MYSELF OUT. STARR HAD ALREADY GONE AFTER THE GHOST!
HE'S TRAPPED IN THE SWAMP — AND NO ONE GETS OUT OF THERE ALIVE! COME ON!
AS RAWLINGS AND FORSTER RACE ACROSS THE LAWN A CAR SUDDENLY APPEARS...
IT'S COMING STRAIGHT AT US! IT'S GOING TO RUN US DOWN!
WHAT THE DEUCE IS THAT CHAUFFEUR PLAYING AT?
RAWLINGS, IT'S NOT THE CHAUFFEUR!
THERE IS NO ONE DRIVING IT AT ALL!
LET NO ONE SHRINK FROM MEETING A MONK... NEXT WEEK !!


A Power House PIN-UP
THE HUMAN TOP
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